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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

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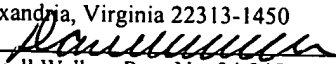
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REPLY BRIEF

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This reply brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer filed January 25, 2008 responding to the Appellants' Appeal May 9, 2007.

Response to Examiner's Arguments in Reply Brief

Arguments in support of separate patentability

Applicants' present invention provides a method and system to enable a user to navigate through a repository of graphical displays and maintain the knowledge of the location of any display in the repository at any time. The purpose of the navigation activity could be to enable a user to create a slide presentation by searching, selecting, downloading and compiling slides from a central slide repository located on a computing network. The invention comprises two main components: the first component relates to the ability to navigate through a hierarchical repository of displays and locate a desired display. During this navigation activity, the complete path traveled through the series directories and subdirectories is displayed to the viewer such the viewer will know what item was selected at each decision point of the navigation activity. The second component of the invention is the arrangement of the items in the repository that simplifies the selection process. The items are stored as display items in a display set. In the lowest storage level of sub-directory in the repository, there is a vertical row (column) that controls the selection of a display set such as a slide presentation. The horizontal row has buttons that control the selection of a particular slide, item or image from that presentation represented by the button in the vertical row.

Therefore, in accordance with this invention, graphical displays are arranged in a repository in a grid-like configuration such that a list of groups of displayed in one direction and the specific displays within that group are listed in another direction (preferably, this second direction is perpendicular to the direction of the list of groups of displays). These groups of slides are arranged in set of directories and sub-directories that are linked to each directory. A hierarchy of the display repository displays the particular directory and sub-directory path taken by a user to retrieve any particular graphical display. With this invention, a user can easily navigate through the display repository and select displays and can easily determine their location in the display repository at any time during a search.

The cited reference Mavrommati describes an information processing system, in which a first sequence of icons is displayed one after the other on the display. The current icon being displayed is made selectable to the user of the system. Upon selection of a particular icon of the first sequence, a second sequence of icons associated with the selected icon of the first sequence are displayed one after the other in another field on the display. The sequences of icons, displayed in the different fields, constitute a hierarchical two-level menu structure, which can now be realized with only two fields on the display.

Distinctions between Applicants' present invention and Mavrommati

Applicants submit that both 6,842,185 (Mavrommati) and Applicants' present invention describe methods of navigating multiple displays in a hierarchy of displays in a repository. However, there are several features that distinguish the two methods. Mavrommati (6,842,185) describes a method that has one icon displayed at a time. With regard to the first component of Applicants' present invention, Figure 5 of Applicants' present invention shows a display of a complete hierarchical path from the main directory down to the lowest subdirectory. Figure 5 shows a series directories and subdirectories (50, 51, 52, 53 and 54). This entire hierarchy is simultaneously displayed to the viewer. At each selection, the choices are shown and the choice that was made is highlighted. The highest or main directory 50 is shown as part of this path. The complete path goes from main directory 50 all the way down to the lowest selected subdirectory.

In Mavrommati, a main or initial directory 202 scrolls across the user screen one by one in a loop with some time between each icon. The first level looping icons 202, can be used to launch a second level looping icons (206, 208, 210 and 212), which can then be used to launch detailed information. In a comparison of the inventions, main directory 50 of Applicants' present invention is analogous to the initial level 202 of Mavrommati. In the present invention, each entry of the main directory is always shown on the screen while in Mavrommati, only one entry at a time is shown on the screen.

Mavrommati describes a system capable of displaying two levels of the hierarchy at one time. However, Mavrommati states in column 4, lines 20 through 25 that the system can display more than two levels at a time. Although, this statement is made,

Mavrommati does not describe a scenario using multiple levels. Further, it is difficult to have this type of implementation because the looping activity occurs at each level (see claim). Mavrommati describes a second sequence of icons in a second timed loop wherein the second field is configured to contain a single second icon as a currently displayed second icon (column 2, lines 38-42). It is unclear from Mavrommati how one can simultaneously display multiple levels (more than two) of the directory with this looping activity that is part of Mavrommati.

Further, according to Mavrommati, one objective is to have fewer icons displayed in order to reduce confusion from having to select from a large number of icons on the screen (Column 1, lines 65-67). With this approach, for practical reasons the total number of icons at each of the two levels is low. Four icons looping at each level ($4 \times 4 = 16$) is probably the maximum, otherwise the time it takes to loop would increase the navigation time to an unacceptable amount. This objective is directly opposite of the approach of the present invention.

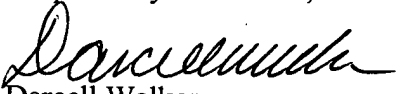
Response to Examiner Answer

The Examiner asserts that Applicant description of the invention includes components that are not clearly claimed in the invention. Referring to claim 1, Applicants clearly claim the complete hierarchical information of a path. This information not only includes the specific entries that the user selects, but also the categories from which the user selected the particular entry. As shown in Figure 5, the selected set of entries (the path) is highlighted, but the information displayed includes all of the options from which the user had during the selection process. The complete hierarchical information recited in the second step of claim 1 is this displayed set of directory and subdirectory information that includes the path to the particular directory chosen by the user and the other options from which the user chose the particular path. Mavrommati cannot show this information simultaneously because of the rotating feature. Further, does not describe the arrangement of displays once the user has selected an entry. Mavrommati does not describe the arrangement of rows and buttons that are used to identify a specific display. The present invention has two phases in the selection process. The first phase is to select the specific display set. This step has the same

objective as Mavormmati. However, the second phase is to select a specific display from the display set. This second phase involves using the rows and buttons to identify the specific display that the user wants to display. This second phase recited in claim 1 is not described in Mavormmati.

In view of the above arguments, it is respectfully urged that the rejection of the claims should not be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,



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APPENDIX A

Claim 1 (Original) A method for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintain knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising the steps of:

displaying a main folder of directories in the repository from which a user can select one of the directories to navigate through to review graphical displays;

displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories, hierarchical information includes the categories of graphical display sets for a selected entry in the directory;

displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a selected graphical display set, the viewing screen containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category and a second row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set; and

displaying a graphical display corresponding to one of buttons selected from the row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set.

Claim 2 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises:

a) displaying a set of entries for a selected directory from the main folder of directories;

b) determining whether the selected entry is a sub-directory;

c) when the selected entry is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory;

d) determining whether a selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory; and

e) when the selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory; and f) repeating steps (d) and (e) until a selected entry in a sub-directory is not a sub-directory.

Claims 3 (Previously presented) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying a graphical display comprises initially displaying a thumbnail view of a selected graphical display prior to displaying a full view of the selected graphical display.

Claim 4 (Original) The method as described in claim 3 further comprising the step of displaying a full screen version of a selected graphical display following the initial thumbnail view of a selected graphical display.

Claim 5 (Original) The method as described in claim 3 further comprising for each directory that is a sub-directory the step of displaying the set of entries in that sub-director when a cursor moves over that entry.

Claim 6 (Original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising the step of displaying a set of categories of graphical display groups, each group containing sets of graphical displays.

Claim 7 (Original) The method as described in claim 2 wherein said the step of displaying entries for a selected directory or sub-directory further comprises reading pointer information located in the selected directory and returning objects of the pointer.

Claim 8 (Original) The method as described in claim 7 wherein entries from a directory or sub-directory are displayed when a curser moves over a directory or sub-directory.

Claim 9 (Original) The method as described in claim 2 wherein a set of entries for an entry selected from a directory or subdirectory are displayed when the selected entry is a directory, sub-directory or display category set.

Claim 10 (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein said step of displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises simultaneously displaying each selected directory and sub-directory as a window on the same display screen.

Claim 11 (Original) The method as described in claim 10 further comprising highlighting each selected entry in each selected directory or sub-directory.

Claim 12 (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintain knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising:

- instructions for displaying a main folder of directories in the repository from which a user can select one of the directories to navigate through to review graphical displays;

- instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories, hierarchical information includes the categories of graphical display sets for a selected entry in the directory;

- instructions for displaying a viewing screen of the graphical display sets for a selected graphical display set, the viewing screen containing a row of buttons corresponding to the number of display sets in the selected category and a second row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set; and

- instructions for displaying a graphical display corresponding to one of buttons selected from the row of buttons corresponding to the number of displays in a selected display set.

Claim 13 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises:

- a) instructions for displaying a set of entries for a selected directory from the main folder of directories;

- b) instructions for determining whether the selected entry is a sub-directory;

- c) instructions for when the selected entry is a sub-directory, displaying entries from the current sub-directory;

- d) instructions for determining whether a selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory;

- e) when the selected entry in the current sub-directory is a sub-directory, instructions for displaying entries from the current sub-directory; and

- f) instructions for moving from one sub-directory to another sub-directory until a selected entry in a sub-directory is not another sub-directory.

Claim 14 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying a graphical display comprise instructions for initially displaying a thumbnail view of a selected graphical display prior to displaying a full view of the selected graphical display.

Claim 15 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising the instructions for displaying a full screen version of a selected graphical display following the initial thumbnail view of a selected graphical display.

Claim 16 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 14 further comprising for each directory that is a sub-directory instructions for displaying the set of entries in that sub-director when a cursor moves over that entry.

Claim 17 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 13 further comprising instructions for displaying a set of categories of graphical display groups, each group containing sets of graphical displays.

Claim 18 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 13 wherein said the instructions for displaying entries for a selected directory or sub-directory further comprises instructions for reading pointer information located in the selected directory and returning objects of the pointer.

Claim 19 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 18 further comprising instructions for displaying entries from a directory or sub-directory when a curser moves over a directory or sub-directory.

Claim 20 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 13 further comprising instructions for displaying a set of entries for an entry selected from a directory or subdirectory, when the selected entry is a directory, sub-directory or display category set.

Claim 21 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 12 wherein said instructions for displaying the complete hierarchical information for a selected directory from the main folder of directories further comprises instructions for simultaneously displaying each selected directory and sub-directory as a window on the same display screen.

Claim 22 (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 21 further comprising instructions for highlighting each selected entry in each selected directory or sub-directory.

Claim 23 (Original) A system for navigating through a repository of graphical displays and maintaining knowledge of the location of any display currently being viewed comprising:

- a local computer;

- a display repository housed in a containing graphical displays, said displays being arranged into sets of displays and stored in said repository in a directory hierarchical tree configuration containing a series of sub-directories that link to the location of a display in said repository;

- a computer network for establishing communication between said local computer and said display repository;

- a navigator program for maneuvering through the directories and sub-directories of graphical displays; and

- control buttons on a screen of a local computer to provide selecting a specific graphical display from a set of displays in a display group.

Claim 24 (Original) The system as described in claim 23 wherein said display repository resides in a server machine on said computing network.